

REMARKS

The office action of April 3, 2006, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1-8 are objected to for containing various informalities.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the patent to David.

Finally, it is noted that claims 6-8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In view of the Examiner's objection to and rejection of the claims, applicant has amended claims 1, 2 and 6-8.

Applicant has amended the claims to address the informalities pointed out by the Examiner. With these changes it is respectfully submitted that the objection to the claims for containing informalities is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Furthermore, applicant has rewritten claims 6-8 in

independent form. In view of this change and the Examiner's indication that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims now on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the methods and constructions disclosed in the reference.

Turning now to the reference, it can be seen that the patent to David discloses slitting and creasing machines, particularly those used in the corrugated board industry. The invention of David uses shears for longitudinally slitting a strip. This means that the shears are always operative as long as the strip passes through the machine. The shears are only moved out of the production line for changing the blade or cross cutting the strip.

In the presently claimed invention exactly the opposite takes place. In the present invention the shears are only introduced into the line when the strip needs to be separated transversely. The present invention only cross-cuts and does not cut the strip longitudinally. Furthermore, after making a cut the shears move

HM-390

back into a waiting position until another cut is needed. Thus, David does not disclose the present invention.

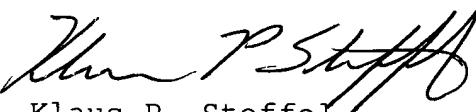
In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the above discussed reference is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

By



Klaus P. Stoffel

Reg. No. 31,668

For: Friedrich Kueffner

Reg. No. 29,482

317 Madison Avenue, Suite 910

New York, New York 10017

(212) 986-3114

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HM-390

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 3, 2006.

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "Klaus P. Stoffel".

Date: August 3, 2006